

April Meeting 1939

You must not miss the April meeting with this treat in store: Through the courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation, Mr. I. T. Quinn, Director of Public Relations of that organization, is making a special trip from Washington to address the St. Louis Bird Club. Mr. Quinn was for seventeen years Commissioner of Conservation for Alabama and member of the Alabama Forestry Commission. He is a past president of both the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners and American Fisheries Society as well as a former chairman of the American Game Conference. For fourteen years he has been a member of the U. S. Advisory Board, Migratory Bird Treaty Act; for the past six years, chairman of the National Committee on Wildlife Conservation; and since 1931 President of the Southern Association of Conservation Officials. Most of his time, however, is now devoted to the National Wildlife Federation. Mr. Quinn's talk is titled "The Sins of the Fathers" and will include a glimpse at wildlife conservation from a national perspective.

Your Board of Directors has gone to great pains in snaring such a catch. Show your appreciation by your attendance, and by all means pass the following along to everyone you know:

APRIL BIRD CLUB MEETING:
TUESDAY EVENING THE 18TH, 8:00 P.M.
LECTURE ROOM, JEFFERSON MEMORIAL
SPEAKER: MR. I. T. QUINN,
DIRECTOR PUBLIC RELATIONS
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

(Please do not forget the change in meeting place, Jefferson Memorial instead of Stix School.)

APRIL BIRD WALKS

Attend our April Bird Walks--every Sunday morning in April from Jefferson Memorial at 7:00 A.M. Laggards can make connections with a group passing the terraced gardens side of the World's Fair Pavilion at 8:00 A.M. Bring binoculars or field glasses if at all possible. April is the Bird Club's peak month. Let's make the most of it.

WELCOME GILLESPIE

The biology class of Gillespie, Illinois has accepted your president's recent radio invitation to anyone interested in birds to attend our walks and will be with us April 16. Be there to give them a real bird handshake. Leaders: Help! We'll need you badly that Sunday. Everybody: Bring extra field glasses or binoculars, if you have them, to lend our guests. Four eyes see better than two.

FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH HARRY BARMEIER

A recent interview with Warden Harry Barmeier, Federal Game Management Agent, leads one to believe that here is a real friend of birds. For some forty years Mr. Barmeier has carried on a fight for respect of law; often a one-man fight in the days before the general public awoke to conservation. "Shoot a duck when you see it" was the slogan confronting him, with a territory that embraces Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota to cover, and living in the horse-and-buggy age, most of his work was done by train first but most important by daily 15-mile walks with occasional 20-mile days that cause no little foot-weariness. But innumerable assets resulted.

Aside from shooting violations of every nature, even against songbirds, there were other bad conditions. The egret racket was blasted out in our territory. ...

One hundred four arrests in Iowa of milliners handling plumes helped to break up the business. Even women were stopped on the streets, curtly but always politely told they were violating the law by wearing plumes on their hats. Confiscation of thousands of dollars worth of plumes led to a "no-more-sales" attitude such that the Indians of the Everglades finally reluctantly cried "White man no buy; Indian no shoot". The result: You are seeing once again today the egret in Missouri in flocks of as high as two hundred at a time. St. Louis Bird Club members two summers ago found the first evidence of egret nesting in Missouri in a quarter century.

Then the florists used to violate. Window displays containing flowers often held great attraction for hummingbirds which would get through a prearranged opening only to become confused about how to get out. Mr. Florist then used a butterfly net, quickly exterminated Mr. Hummingbird and shipped him away to Mr. Taxidermist to be stuffed for Mrs. Public's hat.

And how the ducks caught it! Suffering too from humanity's vanity ducks lost their eggs to the stationer who had found that the whites of fresh duck eggs made a handsome gloss on stationery; and to the leather manufacturer, who had educated the public to the smartness of russet-leather, which in turn was tanned best from stale duck eggs. Canada actually was trying to abide by the first bird migratory act but delivered an ultimatum that if the people of the United States were to continue providing the market, its mounties would stop arresting Indian offenders. The result: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918: and in 1936 has come the Migratory Bird Treaty with Mexico.

But today public education has made life more livable for the warden. Violations are almost at a minimum. Where Mr. Barmeier formerly received calls literally all day long from people in this vicinity complaining of boys and adults shooting birds, in contrast today the phone rarely rings such a report.

Yet we cannot escape the fact that there are still violations. Mr. Barmeier showed a picture taken recently of robin violators in Louisiana--seven men arrested this winter with 185 robins in their possession which they had killed at their roosts and intended to use or sell for eating. Recently Mr. Barmeier ran into a shipment of 900 caged birds to a Kansas City Pet Shop--wild birds such as Indigo Buntings that can't live at the most longer than a few weeks caged. His intensive campaign against Pet Shop illegal sale of song birds is Mr. Barmeier's latest good deed. He still bemoans politics, particularly in the Ozarks, where a prosecuting attorney ends his career if he sees a state warden's case through. But this doesn't disturb the Federal Warden. Mr. Barmeier feels that Missouri's bird protection laws are among the best in the country. Our thanks and compliments to him for seeing them kept.

MARCH BIRDING RESUME

March proved to be a good bird month. Twenty-one species of ducks were observed in this region by St. Louis Bird Club members. The prize find of the month was a Cinnamon Teal, considered only a casual straggler in the Mississippi Valley. It was first observed by Miss Laird March 25, then by Miss Elliott the 26th, Miss Ernst the 29th, and Wayne Short the 30th at Marais Temps Clair in St. Charles County. No Cinnamon Teals have been reported here in our oldest birder's memories. Widmann presumably failed to see it but considered it a straggler. The next best duck was the red-breasted merganser, seen by Miss Ernst and Miss Elliot at Alton Dam.

A splendid find was the red-backed sandpiper by both Miss Ernst and Wayne Short. This is the third known spring record for the red-backed in Missouri. American Golden Plovers were in fine numbers, as many as 200 being recorded by Short in one day in St. Charles County. An early date for the least sand-piper reported by

Stupp-Sanderman-Short was March 31. Wilson's Snipe were in good numbers also. Both Tom Kirksey and Miss Ernst had a horned grebe. Miss Ernst had a clay-colored sparrow.

Banner Duck Day

Your president reports one of the richest duck experiences in his birding career April 1 at Horseshoe Lake on flock of 3000 ducks graced the waters, consisting of 13 different species. The black and white of some 2800 lesser scoup made the waves shimmer in April's brilliant sun. There were some 50 ruddy ducks; many mallards, shovellers, ring-necks, godwalls and baldpates; several green-winged teal and canvas-back; two greater scoup, and one American Golden-eye; in a little foursome were Mr. and Mrs. Hooded Merganser and Mr. and Mrs. Bufflehead. In the background was a flock of 33 pearly-white snow geese and one white-fronted. Forty double-crested cormorants stuck their snouty bills skyward.

On another section of the lake were 2000 coots, a few redheads, pied-billed grebes and pintails. Total ducks for this memorable day--fifteen.

March Meeting

Those of you who were fortunate enough to get to our March meeting agree on the excellence of Mr. I. T. Bode's talk. For those who couldn't make it, here, briefly, is what you missed:

"Missouri, as a state unique in conservation since it is the only state whose conservation set-up is a constitutional one, is progressing slowly but so well that other states are working towards us. The first year and a half have been devoted to: developing a sound financial policy and business-like operation of the department; building a staff of workers who are chosen and measured upon the basis of training, qualifications for duty, and competence; reorganizing the staff of protection officers so that each man will be a service agent to the people and not merely a policeman; reorganizing the distribution of fish and game for stocking purposes so that the fish and game put out will serve as breeding stock and will go on areas available to the public; formulating, carrying out, and helping with programs of voluntary cooperative effort between sportsmen and farmers; building a program of information and educational service with emphasis on youth groups; consulting with the people all over the state preliminary to revision of regulations which will guarantee a maximum use of wildlife resources, a recognition of all forms of sport and use of these resources, and a preservation of capital or breeding stock.

"The present program has included research and fact-finding as a basic part. A research unit has been established in cooperation with the University of Missouri and the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. The Federal funds available under the Federal Wildlife Aid Act are being used to test out ways and means of better solving the puzzling problem of amicable working relationships between land owner and sportsmen and of the kind of assistance to land owners that will insure more adequate environment for all wildlife forms. Plans are being completed for research in the field of fisheries and aquatic biology.

"More than 1200 farmers are cooperating on a voluntary basis in wildlife management work. More than 400,000 acres are under fire protection through voluntary agreements with private land owners. Thirty-five thousand pounds of lespedeza seed were furnished this spring to 240 organizations in 76 counties for planting to supply food for wildlife. One hundred ninety-five of these groups were 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America and Conservation groups. Opportunities for compensating farmers for efforts in wildlife restoration under the AAA programs are being used.

"Research work is revealing that actual increase and restoration is accomplished only through development of better environments for the various species. Along with this comes the knowledge, supported by research, that with most of our wildlife forms, if proper attention is given to environmental development, practically every species produces a surplus that can be harvested on a crop basis. This is referred to as carrying capacity of environment and population vulnerability for the species. The surplus which is produced every year over and above carrying capacity of the environment is subject to many elements of destruction simply because there is not food, protection and other suitable environment to carry over more than a certain number. In many instances, if the population can be brought down to the carrying capacity of the environment before the critical periods set in much healthier condition and produces in turn a larger population."

St. Louis Bird Club expresses its sincerest thanks to Mr. Bode for his generosity. Let's repay him with conservation cooperation.

Audubon Society's Annual Spring Meeting

Members of the St. Louis Bird Club are cordially invited to attend the Audubon Society's Annual Spring Meeting which is to be held this year at Springfield, Mo., April 28, 29, and 30. The program is as follows:
Friday, April 28 - Joint Meeting. Annual Banquet Mo. Academy of Science.
Saturday, April 29 - Morning: Joint Meeting. Audubon Society and the Agriculture, Biology, and Entomology Sections of the Academy.
Noon: Luncheon. Executive Committee and All Members Who Care to Attend.
Afternoon: Papers and Business Meeting.
Evening: Annual Banquet, Mr. I. T. Bode, Director of the Mo. Conservation Commission, speaker.
Sunday, April 30 - Morning: Field Trip.

Spring meetings of the Audubon Society always prove to be outstanding occasions. You'll enjoy particularly the banquet and field trip, highlights of the meeting. Here's a chance to meet Missouri's bird leaders and also get in on a fine bird hunt.

Fish Plea

From the Conservation Commission at Jefferson City comes the plea that all good fishermen should give game fish a chance to rear their young undisturbed during the closed season. This closed season starts at midnight, Saturday, April first and extends until midnight May 29. Fish given the benefit of this closed season are bass of all species, including large and small mouthed bass and silver bass; and crappie, jack salmon and goggle-eye.

"Taking game fish off their spawning grounds would be like shooting a quail on her nest," I. T. Bode, director of the Conservation Commission, said, "and no real sportsman would think of doing such a thing as that."

BIRDS OF THE MONTH Due to Arrive in May

Yellow-crowned Night Heron
American Egret
Little Blue Heron

White-rumped Sandpiper
Least Tern
Bay-breasted Warbler

Due to Arrive and Leave in May

Piping Plover
Ruddy Turnstone (rare)
Common Tern
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Philadelphia Vireo

Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Wilson's Warbler

Bobolink

Due to Leave in May

Common Loon
Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
White Pelican
Canada Goose
Lesser Snow Goose
Blue Goose
Black Duck
Gadwall
Baldpate
Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Shoveller
Red-breasted Merganser
Virginia Rail
Sora (some might nest)
Yellow Rail
Black Rail
Semi-palmated Plover
Black-bellied Plover
Wilson's Snipe
Long-billed Curlew (rare)
Solitary Sandpiper
Willet
Baird's Sandpiper
Red-backed Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher
Stilt Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit (rare)
Marbled Godwit (rare)
Wilson's Phalarope
Herring Gull
Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull

Forster's Tern
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Alder Flycatcher
Red-breasted Nuthatch (rare)
Brown Creeper
Winter Wren
Olive-backed Thrush
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Veery or Willow Thrush
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
American Pipit
Blue-headed Vireo
Golden-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-poll Warbler
Pine Warbler
Myrtle Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
W. Palm Warbler
Northern Water Thrush
Grinnell's Water Thrush
Canadian Warbler
Purple Finch
Pine Siskin
Red Crossbill (rare)
E. Savannah Sparrow
Slate-colored Junco
Clay-colored Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow

Please refer to your February and March bulletins which contained arrivals for March and April. Arrivals listed for March and April are to remain through May unless they appear on the "Due to Leave" lists in the February, March, and April bulletins.

Spwing is here;
De boid is on de wing.
Ain't dat absoid?
I always t'ot de wing was on de boid.